

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP03/05848.

Please add new claims 11-27 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new): A transfer layer for a liquid fluid and for application in an absorbent article of personal use, the transfer layer comprising:

a top layer of predominantly hydrophobic fibrous material;

a bottom layer of predominantly hydrophilic material superimposed on the top layer and joined to the top layer at a plurality of joining regions of the top and bottom layers so as to form a plurality of channels at the joining regions, a plurality of peaks being formed of the top and bottom layers between adjacent ones of the plurality of channels, wherein a transversal thickness of the top and bottom layers is lower at the joining regions than at the peaks.

Claim 12 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein the plurality of peaks define zones of superficial liquid distribution to the channels.

Claim 13 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein a hydrophobia of the top layer and a hydrophilicity of the bottom layer are such that the liquid fluid is transferred through the top layer to the bottom layer at the channels.

Claim 14 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 13, wherein the hydrophobia of the top layer and the hydrophilicity of the bottom layer are such that the liquid fluid is impeded from

transferring through the top layer to the bottom layer at the peaks.

Claim 15 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 14, wherein a thickness of the top layer is between 0.6 and 10 mm at the peaks and between 0.1 and 0.4 mm at the joining region of the top layer.

Claim 16 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein a fiber density of the transfer layer in the peaks is lower than the fiber density at the joining regions.

Claim 17 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 16, wherein the fiber density of the transfer layer in the peaks is between 0.03 and 0.2 g/cm³ and the fiber density at the joining regions is between 0.18 and 0.35 g/cm³.

Claim 18 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein the transfer layer has a lower hydrophobia at the joining regions than at the peaks.

Claim 19 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein a coefficient of hydrophobia in the top layer decreases from the peaks to the channels.

Claim 20 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein the top layer and the bottom layer provide for a unidirectional flow of the liquid fluid.

Claim 21 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein the article includes one of a diaper, a sanitary napkin and a bandage.

Claim 23 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein the plurality of channels are arranged in parallel lines.

Claim 23 (new): The transfer layer as recited in claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of channels form a linear region of liquid distribution and transfer.

Claim 24 (new): An article for the absorption and retention of a liquid fluid, comprising:

a cover permeable to fluids and configured to be in contact with a user's skin;

a transfer layer provided below the cover, the transfer layer including a top layer of predominantly hydrophobic fibrous material and a bottom layer of predominantly hydrophilic material superimposed on the top layer and joined to the top layer at a plurality of longitudinal joining regions of the top and bottom layers so as to form a plurality of channels at the joining regions, a plurality of peaks being formed of the top and bottom layers between adjacent ones of the plurality of channels, wherein a transversal thickness of the top and bottom layers is lower at the joining regions than at the peaks, wherein the channels are in contact with the cover;

an absorbent core configured to absorb and retain the liquid fluid.

Claim 25 (new): The article as recited in claim 24, wherein the transfer provides a unidirectional liquid transfer layer for passing the liquid fluid through the permeable cover to the absorbent core.

Claim 26 (new): The article as recited in claim 24, wherein the article includes at least one of a diaper, a sanitary napkin, and a bandage.

Claim 27 (new): The article as recited in claim 24, wherein each of the plurality of channels forms a linear region of liquid distribution and transfer.